Today's News - Friday, March 12, 2010

- Two calls for Vancouver to take its "under-used architectural gem" (even though leaky) Robson Square seriously, and leave the Vancouver Art Gallery where it is.
- A discussion with Scottish architects who are shaping the country's school buildings of the future.
- Maki's Media Lab for MIT: "one cannot deny that he has created a work of art" (while avoiding "some of the pitfalls encountered by Gehry's Stata Center").
- Glancey celebrates the London Eye on its 10th anniversary: despite its "wobbly beginnings," it "was always a brave and daring adventure."
- Zandberg has a chat with Diller: she "may have succeeded in breaking through her own private glass ceiling," and "gender is not a major issue for her...her work is apparently not enough of an anomaly to lead her beyond the conventional realm, to undertake projects in places where people are needier or hungrier."
- FLW's Beth Sholom synagogue "still glimmers - leaks and all" (great video trailer).
- Weekend diversions:
- Huxtable contemplates the Guggenheim's "Contemplating the Void": "with everything from the inspired to the outrageous to the totally incomprehensible, but what one senses immediately is that everyone had a great deal of fun."
- Betsky finds Seghal's actual void "better than anything else" all those artists, architects, and designers "managed to devise," giving him "the most exhilarating experiences of architecture I have had all year."
- You can own a piece of the "Void" via an online benefit auction through March 18.
- At NYC's Storefront for Art and Architecture, designers tackle the coming apocalypse in "a delicious exercise in paranoia, blending design and Outbreak-style sci-fi."
- NYPD reassures New Yorkers that Gormley's figures on Midtown Manhattan rooftops "are not despondent people on the verge of leaping to their deaths."
- Langdon on Saarinen showcase at Yale: "The buildings he gave us are among the most fascinating of their time. This show gives them the attention they deserve."
- Ouroussoff reports from Paris re: "Claude Parent: Graphic and Built Works": a "marvelous exhibition" that re-establishes the architect "as a pivotal force in European architecture after decades of neglect by the design mainstream."
- Hadid on view in Bahrain.
- Trento, Italy, has one-upped Manhattan's High Line, reclaiming two tunnels through the Dolomite Mountains "as an experimental history museum - and a fascinating example of the reuse of abandoned infrastructure."
- "Architecture and Vision: from Pyramids to Spacecraft" in Minneapolis includes an inflatable space station for conducting experiments on the moon.
- In Dublin, "This, and other things 1999-2010" offers Tallantire's "understated, graceful art" that "explores the relationship between working people and the infrastructure that surrounds them."
- The Lautner show, now in Palm Springs, "persuasively makes a case for the architect's unique brilliance."
- In L.A., an Italian photographer puts herself into Neutra and Lautner homes.
- Gayford has a grand time at the V&A's "Horace Walpole and Strawberry Hill": "Admittedly, he was eccentric - but his eccentricity was actually in the grand tradition of British imaginative quirkiness."
- "Bathing Beauties" beach huts on view in Scarborough, U.K.
- Kennicott is none to kind to "The Art of the Steal": the film is "hostile and has an agenda...There is another side that needs to be heard, and the truth of the larger Barnes drama lies between them."
- And for your amusement: a Friday afternoon time-lapse video fix (Gehry, Trump Chicago, modular mansions, and then some).

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Robson Square requires revamp: It's leaky, but...Olympics left no doubt [it] is the centre of gravity for Vancouver...we've been reminded we've got an under-used architectural gem in the middle of the city. There needs to be an inclusive conversation about how to embrace it and preserve it. -- Arthur Erickson; Cornelia Oberlander; Bing Thom- Vancouver Sun

Abe's wish: Don't move the Vancouver Art Gallery: A prominent Vancouver architect who died in 2009 believed proper use of the 'precious icon' was preferable to a new 'monumental building.' By Abraham Rogatnick -- Francis Rattenbury; Arthur Erickson; Jim Cheng; Bruno Freschi; Bing Thom; Joe Wai; Peter Oberlander- Vancouver Sun

Blueprint for school buildings of the future: Teachers may guide children through their schooldays, but another professional shapes their every move without being in the classroom: the architect...the people who design Scotland's schools. -- Alan Dunlop/gm+ad; Paul Stallan/Ian Harper/RMJM; Lesley Woolfries/Holmes Partnership- TES Connect (UK)

Media Lab extension is glass, steel, open air: $90 million building gives research groups a clean, transparent space...architects made sure to avoid some of the pitfalls encountered by the Frank Gehry-designed Stata Center...one cannot deny that Maki has created a work of art. -- Fumihiko Maki; RWDI- The Tech (MIT)

Wheel deal: the London Eye turns 10: Despite its wobbly beginnings, the capital's giant ferris wheel has become a much-loved symbol of London. And even urban sprawl seems beautiful from the top...was always a brave and daring adventure... By Jonathan Glancey -- Marks Barfield- Guardian (UK)

A woman with a plan: Liz Diller...attended a conference in Israel of women architects, although she herself has hardly been a champion of women struggling to move up the ranks...may have succeeded in breaking through her own private glass ceiling. Still, gender is not a major issue for her...her work is apparently not enough of an anomaly to lead her beyond the conventional realm, to undertake projects in places where people are needier or hungrier... By Esther Zandberg -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro- Ha`aretz (Israel)

The Wright Stuff: At 50, Frank Lloyd Wright's Beth Sholom synagogue still glimmers - leaks and all: ...celebrated its 50th anniversary last year with the opening of a new visitor's center, a documentary film ["An American Synagogue"]...and a fundraising drive to cover a laundry list of repairs and renovations tentatively scheduled to begin this year. By Ian Volner -- James Sanders; Alison Cornyn; Venturi Scott Brown [image, video trailer]- Tablet Magazine

Ramping Up Wright's Vision: "Contemplating the Void"...While these are playful exercises...The collective fancy ran free - one might even say wild - with everything from the inspired to the outrageous to the totally incomprehensible, but what one senses immediately is that everyone had a

great deal of fun. By Ada Louise Huxtable -- Greg Lynn FORM; Damian Ortega; Stan Allen; Saunders Architecture; Olson Kundig Architects; Zaha Hadid; Daniel Libeskind- Wall Street Journal

More Nothing at the Guggenheim: That void is better than anything else 200 artists, architects, and designers managed to devise in "Contemplating the Void"...Tino Seghal has emptied the Guggenheim's ramps and atrium...moving through the Guggenheim in this manner was one of the most exhilarating experiences of architecture I have had all year. By Aaron Betsky- Architect Magazine

Online benefit auction of nearly 200 works from "Contemplating the Void: Interventions in the Guggenheim Museum"...through March 18. -- Álvaro Siza; Vieira Arquitecto; BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group); Greg Lynn FORM; N55; junya.ishigami+associates; MVRDV; Philippe Rahm; Snøhetta;Toyo Ito; West 8- Guggenheim Museum

Rapture Architecture: Designers Tackle the Coming Apocalypse: "Landscapes of Quarantine" that explores that question - It's a delicious exercise in paranoia, blending design and Outbreak-style sci-fi...through April 17 at Storefront for Art and Architecture, NYC [images]- Fast Company

Statues Seem Ready to Leap, but Police Say They Won't: They stand about six feet tall and look like naked human beings. Over the next few days, 27 of them will be scattered across rooftops and ledges of buildings in Midtown Manhattan...NYPD issued a statement reassuring New Yorkers that the figures are not despondent people on the verge of leaping to their deaths. -- Antony Gormley [image]- New York Times

Yale Showcases Saarinen's Certain Style: ...no one captured the public imagination as fully as Eero Saarinen...Despite public admiration, he was controversial within his profession...The buildings he gave us...are among the most fascinating of their time. This show gives them the attention they deserve. By Philip Langdon/New Urban News- Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

All Ramps and Spirals and Mosquito Landings: There's something both touching and disturbing at the heart of "Claude Parent: Graphic and Built Works"...a marvelous exhibition at the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine in Paris...tells us about our diminished cultural expectations...re-establishes the 87-year-old Parent as a pivotal force in European architecture after decades of neglect by the design mainstream... By Nicolai Ouroussoff [images]- New York Times

"Zaha Hadid - Fluidity & Design" at the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research, Bahrain...presents her practice's continued exploration and research towards a new architectural language, March 15 – April 30- ConstructionWeekOnline (Dubai, UAE)

Tunnel Vision: New York's celebrated High Line may have turned an old rail trestle into a park, but the Northern Italian city of Trento has one-upped Manhattan, reclaiming two 1,000-foot-long tunnels...as an experimental history museum - and a fascinating example of the reuse of abandoned infrastructure..."Le Gallerie" -- Jeffrey Schnapp; Elisabetta Terragni; FilmWork; Gruppe Gut [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

"Architecture and Vision: from Pyramids to Spacecraft" at the Goldstein Museum of Design in Minneapolis through May 2, includes "MoonBaseTwo," an inflatable space station for conducting experiments on the Moon... -- Arturo Vittori; Andreas Vogler [images, links]- GreenMuze.com

On people, places and spaces: "This, and other things 1999-2010": 11 years' worth of Anne Tallantire's understated, graceful art explores the relationship between working people and the infrastructure that surrounds them...at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, through May 3 [images]- Irish Times

Positively Palm Springs: "Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner"...persuasively making a case for the architect's unique brilliance as a residential and commercial designer...at the Palm Springs Art Museum through May 23. By William Menking [images, links]- The Architect's Newspaper

At the Hammer, Luisa Lambri makes herself at home: Architecture is a favorite subject for the Italian photographer, who approaches the houses subjectively. "I am photographing myself being there," she says..."Luisa Lambri: Being There"...composed of images inside Neutra's Sten-Frenke house...and the Sheats-Goldstein residence by John Lautner...through June 13 [images]- Los Angeles Times

Horace Walpole and Strawberry Hill: stairway to a thousand horrors: ...extraordinary villa inspired him to write stories that have influenced everyone from Edgar Allen Poe to JK Rowling. A new show brings it vividly to life...Admittedly, he was eccentric – but his eccentricity was actually in the grand tradition of British imaginative quirkiness. By Martin Gayford- Telegraph (UK)

A hut above: "Bathing Beauties": Models of beach huts by a host of international designers will be on show at Scarborough Art Gallery, March 13 - May 9...promises to be "an innovative and engaging look at the architecture of beach hut design"- Scarborough Evening News (UK)

"The Art of the Steal" highlights one-sided nature of some documentaries: ...film is hostile and has an agenda. It uses a well-developed set of polemical techniques...to connect only the dots that make its case...There is another side that needs to be heard, and the truth of the larger Barnes drama lies

between them. By Philip Kennicott [video trailer]- Washington Post

Your Afternoon Time-Lapse Video Fix- Metropolis Magazine

Zaha Hadid Architects: King Abdullah II House of Culture & Art, Amman, Jordan

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